

Creel Survey

March 7, 2016

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

Salmon/Steelhead

Anglers should be aware March 15 is the last day to fish for hatchery steelhead on Cedar (Clark Co.), Rock (Skamania Co.), and Salmon (Clark Co.) creeks and on the Coweeman, Elochoman, Grays, East Fork Lewis, South Fork Toutle, and Washougal rivers.

Mill Creek (Cowlitz County), Germany Creek (including all tributaries) and Abernathy Creek from the mouth (Hwy. 4 Bridge) upstream to posted markers 500 feet below the Abernathy Technology Center – Open to fishing for hatchery steelhead through April 15. Selective gear rules are in effect on Mill and Germany creeks. Selective gear rules will be in effect on Abernathy Creek from March 16 through April 15.

Cowlitz River – 38 boat anglers with 27 hatchery winter run steelhead kept and 1 hatchery jack spring Chinook released. 59 bank anglers with 3 hatchery adult spring Chinook and 9 hatchery winter run steelhead kept. The steelhead were mostly caught around the trout hatchery while the spring Chinook were mainly from the barrier dam.

Last week Tacoma Power recovered 226 winter run steelhead and five spring Chinook adults during five days of operations at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator.

During the past week Tacoma Power employees released 43 winter-run steelhead adults into the Tilton River at Gust Backstrom Park in Morton, four winter-run steelhead into Lake Scanewa above Cowlitz Falls Dam, and 37 winter-run steelhead adults and four spring Chinook adults into the Cispus River near the mouth of Yellow Jacket Creek.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 12,300 cubic feet per second on Monday, March 7. Water visibility is four feet.

Kalama River from the boundary markers at the mouth upstream to 1,000 feet below the upper salmon hatchery – No report on angling success is currently available. Effective March 10 until further notice, the hatchery Chinook daily will be 6 fish of which 2 may be adult Chinook.

Lewis River – Effort is light. 1 bank angler with 1 wild steelhead released. Effective March 10, all Chinook must be released. Fishing for hatchery steelhead remains open.

Wind River from boundary line/markers upstream to the Hwy. 14 Bridge – Opens to fishing for hatchery Chinook and hatchery steelhead March 16.

Wind River from the Hwy. 14 Bridge upstream to 400 feet below Shipherd Falls fish ladder – Closed to all fishing March 16-31. Opens to fishing for hatchery Chinook and hatchery steelhead April 1.

Wind River – Daily limit is 2 hatchery Chinook or 2 hatchery steelhead or one of each. Barbed hooks may be used.

Drano Lake – Opens to fishing for hatchery Chinook and hatchery steelhead March 16. Daily limit 2 hatchery Chinook or 2 hatchery steelhead, or one of each. Barbed hooks may be used.

Expect fishing to start slowly at Wind River and Drano Lake as only 18 adult Chinook had been counted at Bonneville Dam through March 4.

Lower Columbia mainstem below Bonneville Dam – Best success is in the lower river while some spring Chinook are also being caught around Woodland. The majority of the fish being caught are lower river stock based on Visual Stock Identification. 97% of the fish caught were kept.

This year's fishery is off to a strong start. During the first 6 days of March we sampled 663 salmonid anglers (including 236 boats) with 33 adult spring Chinook. During the same week last year, we had only checked 4 adult spring Chinook kept, all of which were upriver stock based on VSI. In 2014, we still hadn't checked a spring Chinook by this time.

An estimated 151 adult spring Chinook were kept in February 2016, the largest catch for that month since 2011.

The Dalles Pool – Light effort though the few boat anglers sampled had released a couple wild steelhead.

John Day Pool – No steelhead catch was observed.

Mainstem Columbia from Buoy 10 upstream to the Hwy. 395 Bridge – Effective March 16 through May 15, the mainstem Columbia River will be open for retention of adipose fin-clipped steelhead ONLY during days and in areas open for retention of adipose fin-clipped spring Chinook.

Mainstem Columbia from Bonneville Dam upstream to Washington/Oregon Border – Effective March 16 through May 6, will be open to fishing for hatchery Chinook and hatchery steelhead. Bank fishing only using hand-casted lines (no floating device to set lines) from Bonneville Dam to Tower Island power lines located about 6 miles below The Dalles Dam. The salmonid daily limit will be 6 fish. Up to 2 may be hatchery steelhead or 1 hatchery adult Chinook and 1 hatchery steelhead.

Mainstem Columbia from The Dalles Dam upstream to McNary Dam – When open from March 16 through June 15, anglers may possess up to 4 hatchery adult Chinook salmon in fresh form. Anglers aboard a boat may only possess one daily limit of salmon in fresh form.

Sturgeon

The Dalles and John Day pools – Boat anglers are catching some legals.

Walleye and Bass

The Dalles Pool – Including fish released, boat anglers averaged just over 2.5 walleye per rod. A dozen bass were also incidentally caught. Since Jan. 1, over 1,200 walleye kept have been tallied during creel sampling.

John Day Pool – Boat anglers averaged over 1.3 walleye and 5.5 bass kept/released per rod.

CAMAS

Health advisory lifted for Lacamas Lake area

Clark County Public Health has lifted a no-contact advisory for Lacamas Lake and Dwyer Creek.

On Feb. 26, public health officials warned people and their pets to avoid contact with water in the lake and the creek, as well as water in Lacamas Creek, following a sewage spill in the 4700 block of Northwest Pacific Rim Boulevard.

Public health lifted the advisory for Lacamas Lake and Dwyer Creek on Friday after samples showed the water no longer posed a threat to the health of people or animals.

But health officials have left in place a no-contact advisory for a 1-mile stretch of Lacamas Creek between Dwyer Creek and Lacamas Lake. Sampling there still shows high levels of bacteria, according to health officials.

The city of Camas will continue to monitor the water condition in Lacamas Creek, and public health will issue an update when the creek no longer poses a health threat.

Monthly Sturgeon Harvest estimates:													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Totals:	%	As of	Guidelines:	
Bonneville ¹	113	44							157	48.3%	Feb. 7	325	
The Dalles	49								49	49.0%	Jan. 31	100	
John Day	26								26	5.2%	Jan. 31	500	

¹ Bonneville Pool closed to sturgeon retention effective February 8. Dates for a potential summer fishery will be considered later.

Harvest estimates are calculated monthly. All in-season estimates are preliminary.

Current month sampled sturgeon kept:													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug					
Bonneville	51	12							63		Mar. 6		
The Dalles	26	12							38		Mar. 6		
John Day	10	5							15		Mar. 6		

Samplers generally observe from 10% - 25% of total harvest.

WDFW Mid-Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary ¹

February 29 - March 6, 2016

The following table is a summary of numbers of fish observed by samplers.

Samplers generally observe from 10% - 25% of total harvest.

Sturgeon														
Reservoir	Bank Anglers	Subs	Leg Rel	Leg Kept	Over-size	2016 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Subs	Leg Rel	Leg Kept	Over-size	2016 Cum Leg Kept	Combined Leg Kept
Bonneville Pool														
The Dalles Pool	29	1			1	1	9	22	19		1		63	63
John Day Pool	17						19	50	3		1		15	15
Total	46	1			1	1	28	72	22		2		115	116
Salmonids														
	Bank Anglers	Wild Kept	Wild Rel	Hat Kept	Hat Rel	2016 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Wild Kept	Wild Rel	Hat Kept	Hat Rel	2016 Cum Leg Kept	Jacks Kept Week Cum
Bonneville Pool														
Chinook														
Coho														
Steelhead														
The Dalles Pool	1					1	2	4			2		8	9
Chinook														
Coho														
Steelhead														
John Day Pool	8						1	2					2	2
Chinook														
Coho														
Steelhead														
Walleye														
	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2016 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2016 Cum Leg Kept	
Bonneville Pool														
The Dalles Pool	1					12	59	134	73	274			1223	1235
John Day Pool							56	112	31	120			302	302
Bass														
	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2016 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2016 Cum Leg Kept	
Bonneville Pool														
The Dalles Pool	1									4	8		14	14
John Day Pool							2	4	19	3			6	6

¹ Quantities include both Washington and Oregon samples.

		Sturgeon	Salmonids	Walleye	Bass
Bonneville	Effort (as a % of 6-week average)	none	none	none	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	none	none	none	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	none	none	none	none
The Dalles	Effort (as a % of 6-week average)	75%	79%	143%	55%
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.43	0.40	2.57	12.00
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.02	none	2.03	8.00
John Day	Effort (as a % of 6-week average)	116%	130%	156%	343%
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.06	none	1.35	5.50
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.01	none	1.07	0.75

Preliminary Washington lower Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary
3/7/2016

3:00 PM

Month/Week	Salmonid			Chinook			Steelhead	Other	[REDACTED]	# Boats	Chinook			Steelhead			Other	
	Sec.	Bank Anglers	Kept Adults	Jacks	Released Adults	Jacks					Kept	Rel.	Boat Anglers	Kept Adults	Jacks	Released Adults		Jacks
Bonneville	1	17	0	0	1	0	0	1	0									
Camas/Washougal	2									2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	3	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vancouver	4	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	67	134	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Woodland	5	54	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	94	211	16	0	0	0	1	1	0
Kalama	6	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	39	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cowlitz	7									3	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longview	8	54	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	16	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cathlamet	9	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
private boats/bank charter	10									24	55	16	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	10	155	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	236	508	32	0	0	0	1	1	0

Sturgeon

	Sec.	Bank	Sublegals	Legals	Oversize	Legals	[REDACTED]	# Boats	Boat	Sublegals	Legals	Oversize	Legals
		Anglers	Rel.	Rel.	Rel.	Kept			Anglers	Rel.	Rel.	Kept	
Bonneville	1					CLOSED							CLOSED
Camas/Washougal	2					CLOSED							CLOSED
	3					CLOSED							CLOSED
Vancouver	4					CLOSED							CLOSED
Woodland	5					CLOSED							CLOSED
Kalama	6					CLOSED							CLOSED
Cowlitz	7					CLOSED							CLOSED
Longview	8					CLOSED							CLOSED
Cathlamet	9					CLOSED							CLOSED
	10					CLOSED							CLOSED
Deep River + Knappton boats	10					CLOSED							CLOSED
Cathlamet	10					CLOSED							CLOSED
Total		0	0	0	0	CLOSED		0	0	0	0	0	CLOSED

Walleye

	Sec.	Bank	Kept	Rel.	[REDACTED]	# Boats	Boat	Kept	Rel.
		Anglers					Anglers		
Bonneville	1								
Camas/Washougal	2								
	3								
Vancouver	4								
Woodland	5								
Kalama	6								
Cowlitz	7								
Longview	8								
Cathlamet	9								
Chinook/Elochoman	10								
Total		0	0	0		0	0	0	0